

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 68  
By Herron

A RESOLUTION to honor the memory of Dr. Howard Lee Harrod  
of Nashville, Tennessee.

WHEREAS, the members of this General Assembly were greatly saddened to learn of the passing of Dr. Howard Lee Harrod, Oberlin Alumni Professor of Social Ethics and Sociology of Religion and Professor of Religious Studies, Emeritus at Vanderbilt University; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Harrod was an exemplary public servant and consummate professional who worked assiduously to improve the quality of life for his fellow citizens in numerous capacities; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Harrod served from 1968 to 2002 with acumen and alacrity as Professor at Vanderbilt University Divinity School, in which position he earned the respect of his students, peers, and administrators alike for the exemplary quality of his work and his lifelong commitment to self-examination and social justice; and

WHEREAS, an active member of the Vanderbilt University faculty for more than thirty years, Professor Harrod was an extremely talented and compassionate educator who worked tirelessly to motivate his students to reach their full potential, both as scholars and as human beings; known for his kindness and his dedication to his work, Professor Harrod's friendship and counsel were highly valued by those fortunate enough to know him; and

WHEREAS, as a valued member of the Vanderbilt family with an unfaltering interest in bettering his community, Professor Harrod participated in numerous campus organizations including service as Director of the Graduate Department of Religion, a member of the Research Council, and the University Promotion and Tenure Review Committee, and on the Faculty Senate, which included a year as its elected Secretary; and

WHEREAS, Professor Harrod was also involved with Vanderbilt's Hospital Ethics Committee, the Committee on Research on Human Subjects and the Committee on Human Subjects-Behavioral Sciences, as well as on the Animal Care Committee; in addition to his university service and his teaching, which included teaching medical ethics at the Vanderbilt School of Medicine, he twice led undergraduates on Alternative Spring Breaks to work on Native American reservations where he always treated the Native American peoples with profound respect; and

WHEREAS, before coming to Vanderbilt University, Dr. Harrod initiated his academic career at Howard University from 1964 to 1966, which was followed by two years teaching at Drake University; and

WHEREAS, Professor Harrod received a B.A. degree from Oklahoma University in 1957 and a B.D. degree from Duke University in 1960; his S.T.M. degree, M.A. degree, and Ph.D. degree were received from Yale University in 1961, 1963, and 1965, respectively, degrees which propelled him into a lifetime of focusing on the sociology of religion and Native American religions on the Northern Plains; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Harrod's academic accomplishments include the authorizing five books, many articles, and numerous book chapters on Native American religions and traditions in addition to his labors aimed at learning from, inspiring, and generating an ethical consciousness in other scholars; and

WHEREAS, Professor Harrod was also deeply devoted to his family, and he always endeavored to remain true to family values of the highest order; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Harrod enjoyed the loving companionship of his wife Annemarie Nussbaumer for a wonderful 31 years and was the proud father of Lee Ann Merrick and her husband, Scott, and Amy Ciel Leonard and her husband, James; and

WHEREAS, Professor Harrod is also survived by four beloved grandchildren, Miranda, Colin, John, and Grace, and one cousin, Cille Wasson; and

WHEREAS, as a remembrance of Professor Harrod's dedication to the pursuit of knowledge, intellectual growth, and social justice, the Howard L. Harrod Lecture Fund at Vanderbilt University has been established; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Harrod leaves behind an indelible legacy of integrity and probity in public life, compassion and loyalty in private life and diligence and dedication in all his chosen endeavors; and

WHEREAS, it is fitting that this General Assembly should pause to remember the bountiful life of this exceptional educator and human being; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED FOURTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, that we honor the memory of Dr. Howard Lee Harrod, reflecting fondly upon his thoughtful nature, dedication to life and scholarship, his impeccable character, and his stalwart commitment to living the examined life with courage and conviction.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that we express our sympathy and offer our condolences to the family of Dr. Howard Lee Harrod.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.